

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 139133
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:WLSWING
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR
-----043255 020135Z /63
P 012204Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 139133

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ZAIRE IN US PRESS

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY MURREY
MARDER IN MAY 31 ISSUE OF WASHINGTON POST ENTITLED
QUOTE US, WESTERN ALLIES SET AFRICA JOINT-ACTION MEETING
UNQUOTE:

THE UNITED STATES WILL JOIN FRANCE, BELGIUM, WEST GERMANY,
AND PERHAPS OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES IN A PARIS CONFERENCE
NEXT WEEK TO EXPLORE JOINT WESTERN-AFRICAN ACTION TO
COUNTER SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN AFRICA, THE
STATE DEPARTMENT SAID YESTERDAY.

AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN ANY NEW DEFENSE-SUPPORT ROLE IN
AFRICA, SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID, QUOTE WILL CER-
TAINLY NOT INVOLVE U.S. COMBAT TROOPS. UNQUOTE

QUOTE I THINK WHAT WE DID IN (ZAIRE'S) SHABA PROVINCE THE
LAST FEW WEEKS IS SOME INDICATION OF THE KIND OF APPROACHES
WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER UNQUOTE THE SPOKESMAN SAID.
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SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE SAID LAST NIGHT, HOWEVER,

THAT QUOTE THE PRINCIPAL REASON UNQUOTE FOR THE WESTERN
ALLIES' TALKS IN PARIS STARTING MONDAY IS THE QUOTE
ECONOMIC UNQUOTE DAMAGE DONE TO SHABA PROVINCE BY THE
RECENT INTRUSION OF REBELS FROM PRO-MARXIST ANGOLA,

AND THE GENERAL STATE OF ZAIRE'S ECONOMY RATHER THAN DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE PAN-AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE.

THE SECURITY CONCEPT, VANCE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, QUOTE IS AN INTERESTING IDEA, UNQUOTE WHICH HE SAID QUOTE I WOULD GUESS UNQUOTE MAY QUOTE COME UP UNQUOTE IN PARIS. BUT VANCE SAID QUOTE IT IS MUCH TOO EARLY TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ON IT UNQUOTE.

VANCE MADE IT CLEAR HE WANTED TO ROLL BACK THE ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN AN AFRICAN DEFENSE MECHANISM, WHICH CAN BE HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL. THE PARIS MEETING LAST WEEK, VANCE SAID, SHOULD BE REGARDED ONLY AS QUOTE A PRELIMINARY MEETING UNQUOTE TO PREPARE FOR A LONG PLANNED CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS JUNE 13-14 FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION QUOTE OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF ZAIRE. UNQUOTE

OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED LAST NIGHT THAT THE VANCE STATEMENTS WERE INTENDED TO DIMINISH THE ATTENTION GIVEN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMEN EARLIER, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AT HIS NOON BRIEFING, ABOUT THE AFRICAN SECURITY CONCEPT.

OFFICIALLY CONFIRMING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S UNCLASSIFIED

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INTEREST IN SUPPORTING AN AFRICAN FORCE TO COUNTER EXTERNAL INTERVENTION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID YESTERDAY:

QUOTE AN AFRICAN FORCE IN ZAIRE, SPECIFICALLY IN SHABA, IS ONE OF THE POSSIBILITIES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE, TOGETHER WITH OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF BELGIUM AND FRANCE, HAVE RAISED...

QUOTE WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN SUCH AN APPROACH IN A LIMITED MANNER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH WELL-ESTABLISHED, CLEARLY DEFINED GUIDELINES, WHICH WOULD BE DEVELOPED IN FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS.

QUOTE WITH RESPECT TO MORE GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF AFRICA, RAISED BY AFRICAN STATES THEMSELVES--CONCERN WHICH HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE FORE AGAIN BY THE INVASION OF SHABA PROVINCE--WE ARE (ALSO) PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS BROADER QUESTION WITH INTERESTED STATES...UNQUOTE

QUOTE THERE IS NO DISTINCT PLAN UNQUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CARTER STRESSED. HE SAID QUOTE NO CLEAR PICTURE HAS EMERGED OF POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON THIS KIND OF QUESTION...UNQUOTE

CARTER SAID THAT QUOTE AS A FURTHER CAVEAT,UNQUOTE HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT QUOTE IN ANY CASE OUR PARTICIPATION WILL CERTAINLY NOT INVOLVE U.S. COMBAT TROOPS. UNQUOTE

HE THEN CITED THE EXAMPLE OF U.S. ACTION IN PROVIDING AIR AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN FORCES WHICH PARACHUTED INTO SHABA PROVINCE.

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WHEN ASKED IF THE CONSTRAINTS ON FUTURE U.S. ACTION WILL PERMIT THE UNITED STATES TO SEND MILITARY ADVISERS OR OTHER GROUND PERSONNEL TO SUPPORT AN AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS TOO PREMATURE TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS. QUOTE I AM NOT AWARE OF SPECIFIC CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC ACTIVITY, UNQUOTE HE SAID.

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S QUOTE BASIC CONCERN,UNQUOTE HE SAID, CONTINUES TO BE THAT AFRICANS SHOULD DEAL PRIMARILY WITH AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

POSSIBLE U.S. SUPPORT NOW BEING EXPLORED, HE SAID, SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED IN ANY WAY AS INDICATING THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED QUOTE TO MAKE AFRICA A BATTLEGROUND FOR GREAT POWER CONFRONTATION. UNQUOTE INSTEAD, HE SAID, THE UNITED STATES FEELS COMPELLED QUOTE TO DEAL WITH WHAT, UNFORTUNATELY, SEEMS TO BE A REALITY UNQUOTE IN AFRICA--REFERRING TO EXTENSIVE SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA.

VANCE'S MUCH MORE GUARDED PUBLIC COMMENTS FIVE HOURS LATER ABOUT ANY U.S. PARTICIPATION IN A NEW AFRICAN SECURITY VENTURE APPEARED TO REFLECT MULTIPLE SENSITIVITIES. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE139133
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WLSWING
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0404
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806105/aaaadmxa.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 64bb417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2155209
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRE IN US PRESS FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY MURREY MARDER IN MAY 31 ISSUE OF WASHINGTON POST ENTITLED
TAGS: SOPN, CG, US, FR, BE, GE, UR, CU
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64bb417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014